Mechanism to monitor the execution of contracts etc.

7049. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the actions of the officers who are authorised to execute contracts and assurances of property on behalf of the President under Article 299 (1) of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, what is the nature of this machanism;

(c) whether any irregularities or defaults were noticed during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Criminalisation of electoral politics

7050. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electoral politics is significantly criminalised;

(b) if so, what are the corrective measures recommended so far by various official and semi-official committees and how the proposed reforms are going to tackle these problems;

(c) whether it is a fact that political parties largely nominate candidates on the basis of the caste and communal composition of the constituencies;

(d) if so, why not work out electoral constituencies where candidates attributes like caste and community attached to individual would not count and mainly party and its performance would be in focus;

(e) if so, whether this process strengthens casteism and communalism; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that successive elections have weakened national integration and boosted casteism and communalism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, making certain practices as electoral offences, enhancing punishment for certain existing electoral offences, amplification of the offence of booth capturing and enhancing punishment therefor, use of electronic voting machines, deletion of death of a candidate as a ground for countermanding of elections, introduction of photo identity cards reduction in campaign period, etc., are some of the measures recommended to prevent malpractices and criminalisation in the electoral process.

(c) The Government has no information in this regard.

(d) Does not arise. Moreover, it may not be feasible to work out such elecotral constituencies.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No Sir.

Auditing of books under Companies Act, 1956

7051. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued Cost Accounting Records (Cosmetics and Toiletries) Rules, 1993 and the Cost Accounting Records (Soap and Detergents) Rules, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any order for audit of the books of accounts have been issued by Government under the Companies Act, 1956;